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Letter dated 30 April 1999 from the Permanent Representative of Cyprus to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government and further to my letter dated 29 March 1999, I have the honour to draw your attention to a new violation of the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus and of the flight information region (FIR) of Nicosia by a military aircraft of the Turkish Air Force, recorded on 26 April 1999.

On that day, one aircraft of the Turkish Air Force (F-4) entered the Nicosia FIR, violating international air traffic regulations.

The aircraft violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus, flying over the area of Karpasia before exiting in a southeasterly direction.

As stated in my previous letters, these Turkish unauthorized intrusions into the Nicosia FIR and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus are in violation of international air traffic rules, and at the same time are in contravention to the provisions of Security Council resolutions on Cyprus.

On behalf of the Government of the Republic of Cyprus, I wish to strongly protest these new provocative acts by Turkey, which demonstrate Turkey's blatant disregard of international law, the Charter of the United Nations and all relevant decisions of the Organization on the question of Cyprus.

I would like, once more, to underline that the present violations occurred after the adoption of Security Council resolutions 1217 (1998) and 1218 (1998), in which the Council called upon all States to respect the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Cyprus and refrain from any action which might prejudice that sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity. My Government expects that the Turkish side will show compliance with the provisions of these resolutions.

Such provocative actions are not conducive to reducing tension and run counter to the initiative of the Secretary-General announced on 30 September 1998, within the framework of his Mission of Good Offices, with the goal of reducing tensions and promoting progress towards a just and lasting settlement in Cyprus.

Furthermore, the continuing overflights by the Turkish Air Force, as well as the presence of the Turkish military occupation forces on the island, constitute the underlying causes of tension in Cyprus.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 62, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Sotos ZACKHEOS
Ambassador
Permanent Representative